

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION STATEMENT
ON SB 836, AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY RECRUITER
ACCESS TO MILITARY RECORDS.**

The Freedom of Information Commission applauds the intent of this proposed legislation and supports its adoption.

The bill's goal is to broaden access to veterans' military records on file with town clerks or other public agencies in order to facilitate recruiting for the armed forces of the United States and the Connecticut National Guard.

Concern about identity theft led the legislature in 2002 (Public Act 02-137) to impose strict standards for the retention and storage of DD214 forms and related documents referenced in Section 1-219 of the FOI Act. The consequence was to severely curtail access to these records even to those who might be able to provide benefits to the veterans and/or the military. The proposal in SB 836 would broaden access to these records allowing military recruiters to use them in their duties.

The FOIC supports the increased access and supports the bill as written.

Contact: Colleen M. Murphy, Executive Director and General Counsel or Mary E. Schwind, Managing Director and Associate General Counsel at (860) 566-5682.